MOVIES OF THE WEEK Kevin Thomas

In place of movies, CBS and ABC are both airing miniseries Sunday and Monday nights. At 8 p.m. both nights CBS is offering a new six-hour **Christopher Columbus** with Gabriel Byrne in the title role under the direction of Italy's esteemed veteran Alberto Lattuada. ABC counters at 8 p.m. Sunday and 9 p.m. Monday with **Deadly Intentions**, a four-hour drama based on a true story about a woman who discovers that her "perfect" husband is actually a psychopath plotting her murder. Michael Biehn, Madolyn Smith and Cloris Leachman (as Biehn's mother) star.

Also airing Sunday at 8 p.m. (on Channel 11) is Martin Scorsese's provocative, bloody **Taxi Driver**, starring Robert De Niro as a walking time bomb.

Gregory Nava's and Anna Thomas' **El Norte** (Channel 50 at 8 p.m., Channels 28 and 15 at 9 p.m. on Monday) dramatizes the plight of illegal immigrants on an epic scale, following a brother (David Villalpando) and sister (Zaide Silvia Gutierrez) from their native Indian village in Guatemala through the dangerous ordeal of a border crossing at Tijuana and their eventual arrival in Los Angeles, where they attempt to create a new life for themselves. At times director Nava and producer Thomas—they collaborated on the Oscar-nominated script—exceed their grasp, but it's worth overlooking occasional awkwardness and contrivances for the deeply affecting and illuminating experience that **El Norte** can be. The wonderful cast includes Lupe Ontiveros as Gutierrez's staunch, hearty friend. (See Show of the Week on Page 5.)

That most numbing of shockers, **The Exorcist**, airs Monday at 8 p.m. on Channel 13; its extravagantly misfired sequel **Exorcist II: The Heretic** airs Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Channel 13 and again on Saturday at 11 p.m.

The 1982 TV movie **Prime Suspect**, which stars Mike Farrell and Teri Garr and is awfully similar to "Absence of Malice," repeats on NBC Monday at 9 p.m.

The gloriously giddy **My Favorite Year** (Channel 5 Tuesday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m.), inspired by Mel Brooks' memories as a fledgling writer on television's "Your Show of Shows," is especially memorable for Peter O'Toole's boozy homage to Flynn and Barrymore.

Airing at 9 p.m. Tuesday on CBS is **Do You Remember Love?**, a new TV movie starring Joanne Woodward as a poet and college professor struck down by Alzheimer's disease. Richard Kiley portrays her husband and Geraldine Fitzgerald plays her mother.

Right to Kill? (ABC Wednesday at 9 p.m.), a new TV movie based on a true story, stars Christopher Collet as a teen-ager who shoots his abusive father (Frederic Forrest). Playing opposite on CBS (Wednesday at 9 p.m.) is another new TV movie, **Chiller**, about a young man (Michael Beck) who's thawed out after a decade in cryogenic suspension. Earlier Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 5, is Steven Spielberg's disastrous World War II comedy **1941**, starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi.

Movies in prime time for the rest of the week are such familiar items as the funny and lively **Silver Streak** (Channel 5 Thursday at 8 p.m.) with Gene Wilder, Jill Clayburgh and Richard Pryor; the landmark supernatural thriller **Rosemary's Baby** (Channel 13 Thursday at 8 p.m.); the misfired comedy **Caddyshack** (CBS Friday at 8 p.m.) with Chevy Chase, Bill Murray and Rodney Dangerfield and Mel Brooks' delicious spoof **Young Frankenstein** (Channel 5 Friday at 8 p.m.).

Evenings on the pay/cable services: **Strangers on a Train** (WOR Sunday at 10); **The Return of a Man Called Horse** (Showtime Monday at 6); **Moscow on the Hudson** (ON and SelecTV Monday at 7); **She Wore a Yellow Ribbon** (Z Monday at 7); **Seven Days in May** (WTBS Tuesday at 8); **Limelight** (Disney Wednesday at 9); **A Streetcar Named Desire** (Cinemax Wednesday at 10); **The Trouble With Harry** (SelecTV Thursday at 7; Movie Channel Saturday at 7); **Fail-Safe** (WTBS Thursday at 7:20); **Stage Door** (Z Thursday at 7:30); **The Karate Kid** (ON Thursday at 8:30; SelecTV at 9); **Bonnie and Clyde** (WTBS Thursday at 10:45); **Iceman** (Movie Channel Friday at 6); **The Personals** (Z Friday at 7:30); **Last Embrace** (Cinemax Friday at 8); **Tootsie** (HBO Saturday at 8).

VIEWERS' VIEWS

I recently saw a show called "Camera Nine" with one portion about Satanism. I may not be an authority on Satanic rituals and their ilk, but I do know the five gentlemen who make up the rock band Iron Maiden. To say that they or their songs are Satanic is pure rubbish. It's no wonder they keep saying they aren't very fond of America! None of their songs, save "The Number of the Beast," have any Satanic overtones, none of them have "666" tattooed to their foreheads and nothing in their stage set is even remotely evil.

Susan Lee, Granada Hills

Thank you, Channel 28, for the "Frontline" report on "Catholics in America." It was engrossing and informative, and not at all biased either way. More such programs on various faiths and cultures would be greatly appreciated. They help us all to understand one another.

Eileen Bigelow, Whittier

Why are the majority of good programs and movies scheduled for the beginning of the week while the last few days there is hardly anything worth watching? Are people supposed to watch TV only the first few days of the week? I've noticed that most of the miniseries also follow a similar pattern.

June Jensen, Glendale

Steve Edwards is overexposed. With would-be broadcasters abundant in Los Angeles, why is he the host of "A.M. Los Angeles," "Three-Three-O," "Hollywood Closeup," Oscar previews, etc.? Edwards isn't unique. ABC, promote new talent!

Ann Holmes, Los Angeles

I and several of my neighbors miss Tritia Toyota so much as a newscaster on Channel 4. Please bring her back.

Mary W. Eiker, Arcadia

I was and still am mad at KTLA Channel 5 for moving the "20-Minute Workout" from 9:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. So the heck with you, Channel 5, and thank you, Channel 56, for your workout program, "Bodies in Motion," at 9 a.m. weekdays. It's great!

Cheryl Quirk, Sylmar

I am very upset that Channel 5 ran bloody and violent promos for the movie "Prom Night" during the hours of 5:30-7 p.m. It's bad enough that such a sick movie was on TV, but to subject families to this horror while we are watching "Happy Days" is an insult and invasion of our rights. I don't wish to see such a movie and certainly do not want my impressionable children subjected to such desensitizing fare. This film was probably rated R and Channel 5 ran it at 8 p.m., which encourages family viewing. The whole thing showed incredibly poor taste.

Rosemary C. Warren, Cypress

Send your views on television programming, personalities and trends to Viewers' Views, c/o Television Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, Calif. 90053. Letters must be signed with full name and address.

ON THE COVER: Get ready to set sail on a six-hour voyage to the world of "Christopher Columbus." CBS will detail the explorer's life on a miniseries airing Sunday and Monday from 8-11 p.m. (Channels 2 and 8).

Irish actor Gabriel Byrne stars as Columbus, and the large cast includes Faye Dunaway (as Queen Isabella), Rossano Brazzi, Virna Lisi, Oliver Reed, Raf Vallone, Max von Sydow, Eli Wallach and Nicol Williamson. The special was filmed in Malta, Spain and the Dominican Republic.